

Thomas Jefferson to Benjamin H. Latrobe, Surveyor of the Public Buildings, March 6, 1803, two same date, from Thomas Jefferson and the National Capital. Edited by Saul K. Padover.

Jefferson to Latrobe THE PRESIDENT TO BENJAMIN H. LATROBE

March 6, 1803

Sir: Congress has appropriated a sum of \$50,000, to be applied to the public buildings under my direction. This falls, of course, under the immediate business of the superintendent, Mr. Munroe, whose office is substituted for that of the board of commissioners. The former post of surveyor of the public buildings, which Mr. Hoban held until the dissolution of the board at [\$1,700 a year], will be revived.

If you choose to accept it, you will be appointed to it, and would be expected to come on by the 1st of April. Indeed, if you could make a flying trip here to set contractors at work immediately in raising freestone, it would be extremely important, because it is now late to have to engage laborers, and the quantity of freestone which can be raised, delivered, and cut in the season is the only thing that will limit the extent of our operations this year.

I set out to-morrow for Monticello, and shall be absent three weeks, but shall be glad to receive there your answer to this.

Accept my friendly salutations and regards.

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P.S.—On the raising of freestone be pleased to consult Col. D. H. Brent, who can give you better information and advice on the subject than any other person whatever, having been much concerned in the business himself.

[Glenn Brown, HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL, I, 32.]